

be had from The Society of the Divine Word, Techny, Ill.

We also acknowledge receipt of the "Familienfreund," a German literary magazine from the press of the "Herold des Glaubens" of St. Louis Mo.

The Hakodate Fire.

A few weeks ago all the newspapers announced that the city of Hakodate, Japan, had been devastated by a terrible fire. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith has just received from Mgr. Berlioz, Catholic Bishop of Hakodate, a few complementary details to the short message that brought us news of the sad event.

This conflagration is a repetition of the fire of 1879 that laid waste half of the city which then had a population of 40,000. Before the recent calamity the city numbered 100,000 inhabitants; 70,000 of these unfortunate people now have no shelter but the fastnesses of the mountains.

All the principal buildings have been destroyed, and all the Catholic institutions are a heap of ruins. The Church (built 30 years ago at the close of the last persecution,) the mission house, the bishops residence, the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Paul, the orphanage, the foundling asylum, and the school that accommodated 300 pupils, all were a prey to the flames.

Two missionaries, twenty sisters, more than a hundred orphans, and about 700 Christians are now destitute and homeless. Their only hope is that their brethren throughout the world will be moved by Christian charity to succor their distress.

We may judge of the terrors of these great fires of Japan from the fact that within a few hours whole cities are swept out of existence by the scourge, and sometimes the calamity is accompanied by the horrors of an earthquake.

The present disaster is so much more deplorable that the mission of Hakodate is extremely poor. Bishop Berlioz visited recently this country soliciting alms to be able to continue the work.

Offerings for the victims of the Hakodate fire may be forwarded to

THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH, 627 LEXINGTON AVENUE,
NEW YORK CITY.